Account of the Duel between the Monitor and the Merrimac.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sunday, March 9. BURNING OF THE CONGRESS-PRAYERS FOR THE

COMING OF THE MONITOR-SHE APPEARS. Taking up the narrative at the conclusion of my dispatch last evening, I will say that at about 8 o'clock in the evening the Congress, at Newport News, was set on fire by rebels, [?] and in a short time was a pyramid of flame—a spectacle at once splendid beyond description, and well calculated to fill loyal hearts with patriotic indignation. She continued to burn for hours, witnessed by the whole country around. Gen. Wool made every preparation in view of the probability of a land attack, either on Camp Hamilton or Camp Butler, at Newport News. The Minnesota was still aground midway between the fortress and the latter place, and arrangements were made to relieve her at the ensuing flood tide, which would be about midnight. Arrangements were made, likewise, in case the Merrimac or any of the rebel boats should pay us a visit or attempt to go out during the night, to give them a proper reception. During the day, while the bloody scenes on the Cumberland and Congress were in progress, the prayer of all hearts was that the Monitor (the Ericsson, rather, as everybody persists in calling her—the only name intelligible here,) would come. As if in answer to that prayer, in company with the Currituck and Sachem, about 101 o'clock, she entered the Roads, with a modesty little denoting the terrible thing she really was. The satisfaction with which her arrival was hailed may be imagined. The only regret was that she did not come 12 hours sooner. Preparations were immediately made for placing her in condition for the terrible contest which, untried, and an experiment as she was, she would have to engage in within the next few hours. At about 14 the magazine of the Congress, whose flames illumined the Roads and Bay, blew up. The concussion shook the earth like an earthquake. The glare for an instant made the night almost as light as day. The gloom that followed seemed an appropriate closing scene to the work of carnage. Beyond unsuccessful efforts to release the Minnesota by a number of tugs, nothing else of moment occurred during the night.

THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC.

Jamestown, Yorktown, and a number of other rebel craft were seen drawn up off Sewall's Point, apparently waiting for the haze and smoke to lift before resuming the contest. The Monitor had taken her station to the left and in advance of the Minnesota, and our gunboats were in the neighborhood of the frigate. Shortly after 8 o'clock the Merrimae began to move up towards the Minnesota, about three miles distant. Her path lay across the bows of the Monitor, whose presence or real character it is probable she was not then aware of. When within about a mile, the ball was opened by the Monitor firing a shot, which struck the side of the iron-hided monster, the Merrimac at the same time slackening her speed. Her intention evidently was to make directly for the Minnesota, and serve her as she had served the Cumberland and Congress. But suddenly she found a lion in her path. The firing was kept up for some time at the distance of about one mile, when the Monitor began to move toately and with precision. The Merrimac six her size, and with an armament equally out of proportion, awaited her at rest. At a distance of a quarter of a mile or less, both opened their terrible batteries—the Merrimac firing much the oftenest of course. It was the first trial of an experiment in a fearful ordeal. The scene was witnessed by those who crowded the ramparts and lined the docks with almost breathless interest. It would not have disappointed many at that moment had it become apparent that the unpretending Monitor was unequal to the contest. By this time the two iron-clad combatants seemed to touch, fighting at close quarters, delivering their shots seemingly into the muzzles of each other's guns. But so far from being unequal to her adversary, the Monitor moved around her, planting her shots where she would. The contest was so hot that for a time the smoke obscured both the Monitor and the Merrimac. As if realizing that she had found at least her match if not her superior, the Merrimac drew off toward Craney Island, the Monitor pursuing, planting her shot with the same deliberation which had characterized her movements from the outset. After keeping up the pursuit for half an hour, the Monitor returned towards the Monnesota. I should have mentioned that shortly after this engagement commenced, one of the rebel gunboats, apparently the Yorktown, steamed out, and boldly engaged the Monitor. A shot through her which must have done serious injury, sent her back again, and she did not venture within range of the guns of the new-comer during the

As if having rested from the first round and recovered from the bewilderment resulting from finding such a terrible antagonist in so small a one, the Merrimac returned to the contest, and, as before, was met fearlessly by the Monitor.

The Merrimac being now within range of the Minnesota, delivered several of her thunderbroadsides, and showers of solid shot went crasting against the side of the iron monster. The gunboat also went into the fight gallantly. Though the Monttor again sought close quarters, the Merrimac, having already had a taste of that sort of thing, kept at a prudent distance. For more than an hour the battle was kept up without either side showing damage, when, at about 11 A. M., the Monitor retired beyond the Minnesota to allow her guns to cool. The contest now raged between the Merrimac and Minnesota and the gunboats. The terrible broadsides of the frigate, chained to the bottom, as it were, shook the earth, and the solid shot glanced in every

direction from the side of the Merrimac. Having given her guns an hour to cool, the Monitor returned to the contest, and the Merrimac was apparently ready for her, for she did not retreat but stood her ground. Nothing could exceed the accuracy of the firing on both sides. After keeping up the contest for half an hour at a range of half or three-quarters of a mile, the Monitor began to advance on her antagonist, who waited her with apparent confidence. De-livering her fire with deliberation and unerring precision the Monitor went straight ahead and at full speed for the Merrimac, till the men on both boats, if they had not been hidden by the iron covering might have engaged in a hand-to-hand fight. Now followed one of the most remarkable and exciting scenes ever witnessed in naval warfare. The vessels touched, and deliver-ing their broadsides simultaneously, the shot crashed upon the sides of both, either glancing off and falling into the water, or crumbling into atoms. As if determined that the combat should have an end, the Monitor moved round the Merrimac at a distance of only a few yards, plunging her shots into her sides. With well-directed aim she planted one into her hull below her iron coating, and below her water line. Three gaping holes now appeared in her iron coating. Passing deliberately round the stern of the Merrinac, the Monitor aimed a shot at her screw, and several others at vital points. The Merrimac now began to move off toward the cove flanking Craney Island, and as it became apparent that she was disabled cheers went up from the ramparts and the shore. The Monitor did not pursue, probably on account of the heating of her guns, or some other equally good reason. After lying for a short time near the shore the Merrimac slowly rounded out, and turned her prow toward the place she was seen in the morning, where the other rebel boats were assembled spectators of the fight. They gathered around her like the backers of a whipped bully. At this time it was the general opinion of those who had the best means for observing that the Merrimac had sunk at least two feet, and that she was fast going down. Her deck was thronged with her crew. She gave no sign of steam or smoke. small boats put off from her, and tug hoats came to her side as if to render assistance. As soon as arrangements could be made for doing so, the hoats took her in tow, and about three-quarters pest 12, the Merrimac, the Yorktown, the Jamespulling the former, might be seen, constituting a mournful procession, as they passed into the dim distance under Craney Island. Thus ended probably the most remarkable naval engagement

clad antagonists.

THE LOSS OF LIFE-REMARKS ON THE FIGHT. The timely apppearance of the Monitor was the salvation of the Minnesota, and probably most of the shipping in the roads, and perhaps other property beside. Had she come a day sooner, she would have saved two of the noblest frigates

in the service and hundreds of lives. The loss of life it is impossible to give. On the Cumberland it is believed to be about 150; none of the officers were lost. On the Congress, Capt. Smith, it is probably about the same. Lt. Joseph Smith was killed by a shot striking his head. The Cumberland never struck her colors, and fired a broadside as she went down. Those who escaped swam ashore or were rescued in small boats. The officers of the Congress only were retained as prisoners, the crew being allowed to go ashore. Company D, of the Union Coast Guard—Capt. McIntyre and Lieut. Elder

-were a part of the crew on the Congress. About 30 of the 80 men comprising the company have been accounted for. I understand that Capt. I. and Leiut. E, are prisoners. Both Frigates were fighting gallantly, and I hear especial praise awarded to the officers of the Cumberland, Capt Norris and Lieut. Selfridge. Capt. Radford, of the Cumberland, was at the Fortress on special duty at the time the action commenced, and though he took the quickest conveyance, he did not reach Newport News till it was all over.

The loss on the Minnesota is 3 killed and 15 wounded, the wounded being but slightly hurt, On the Whitehall 3 were killed. During the action to-day, the aug Dragon received a shot in her boiler and bluw up killing 2 men. The Monitor lost none as I am at present advised; neither did she sustain any material injury; she is a complete success. Lieut. Worden is deserving of the highest praise for the truly heroic manner in which he fought his new and novel ship. He has rendered a service to the country, which no sum in dollars can repay. The Minnesota, Capt. Van Brunt, sustained her high character; she will soon be rescued from her present position and live to honor the cause of the Union. It is said that a tug carrying ammunition to the Merrimac

was sunk early during the day. Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Fox, came by the Baltimore boat this morning and witnessed the battle. It was his intention to order the Monitor away from here to another field. I believe he has concluded not to do so, especially as there is no certainty how soon the Merrimac will be repaired and pay us another visit. This is far more doubtful than was the present visit of the Merrimac. Three weeks ago Gen. Wool received strictly trustworthy information that she would soon come out. This intelligence was sent specially to the War and Navy departments, together with every particular concerning her, at the same time giving the Secretaries to understand that as we were situated we would be at her mercy. The Monitor came a day or two later, followed by the At early dawn this morning, the Merrimac, acting Secretary of the navy, to order her away. Eight months the rebels have been preparing, building batteries and putting iron clothing on the Merrimac. We have seen one result of indifference. Shall we see others?

> FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THE ENGAGEMENT. Eve-witnesses of this most extraordinary naval

ngagement on record, say : At 84 o'clock on Sunday morning the Merrimac accompanied by the Jamestown and Yorktown, and steamtugs came in sight, headed for the Minnesota. A shot from the Monitor, which steamed up to meet the Merrimac, surprised her and she seemed to start back as if finding an un-

From half past eight till ten minutes past twelve the battle raged—the Pig's Point and Sewall's Point batteries joined the rebel fleet in the assault on the Monitor and Minnesota, which was assisted by the gunboat Whitehall, once a ferry-boat, and one or two other vessels.

The interest of the contest centered in the struggle between the two iron-clad vessels, as the rebel wooden boats kept their distance, and only manifested themselves by an occasional shell, and the Minnsota's broadsides glanced off harmlessly from the Merrimac's mailed planks.

The Monitor for nearly four hours steamed round and round the Merrimac, sometimes at a distance of half a mile, sometimes touching her, constantly hammering her with immense shot from her two guns. The effort was to hit her stern, which was believed to be the heel of this Achilles; but the Merrimac, aware of this, kept turning, also trying to strike the Monitor with her

Once only the Monitor get into position behind the Merrimac, but unfortunately, the current didn't stop rotating at the right moment, and the shot missed their work. In the course of the fight the Monitor discharged from 80 to 90 shots and the Merrimac, flying, as some officers think, a black flag, some 200. At length the Merrimac retired with her consort.

Her stern seemed to observers to sink lower in the water than when she came out. She was towed off by the tugs, and some say that her crew or a portion of them were seen upon her roof, as if afraid she would go down. Lieut. Worden, commander of the Monitor, is sure that he put three shots through her, and the general opinion at Fortress Monroe is that she was disabled, but Assistant Secretary of the Navy Fox, who was on the ground, thinks otherwise.

The Monitor was entirely unharmed. Not a man was killed, and the only one injured was Lieut. Worden, whose face and eyes suffered twice from the flame and iron particles from shells bursting outside, which penetrated through a small aperture into the pilot-house through which he was directing the fight.

The crew and gunners felt thoroughly safe, so much so that a quartermaster came on deck to inquire where the fight was going on. He was hard of hearing, and could not make it out below. An English naval officer who saw the fight says that no vessel in the British navy could withstand the Monitor. It is believed that our loss both days is not far from 300, including the missing. Washington correspondence of March 10th

Lieut. Worden, who, still suffering from his wounds, is in town staying at the house of Lieut. Henry A. Wise of the Ordnance Burcau of the Navy Department, with whom he came up this morning. On his arrival in Baltimore, Gen. Dix sent on an ambulance to take him to the ears : and Mr. Smith, Agent of Transportation, furnished a special car to take him to Washington The President visited him to-day and expressed the warmest sympathy with his sufferings, and admiration of his bravery and skill. He will be promoted, as he richly deserves to be. The services of Assistant Secretary Fox and Lieut. Wise, who arrived at old Point on Saturday night, were invaluable.

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From the N. Y. Heraki's Correspondent. Miscellaneous Incidents in the Late Naval

The Merrimac evidently came out in the morning without the expectation of meeting any obstacle more than on the preceding day, and no doubt the presence of the Monitor, when it struck her view, was sudden and wholly unexpected. The Monitor was handled with unsurpassed skill, decision and coolness, for which all praise should be given her officers. She has come up to

the expectations that were formed of her, and has

proved herself impregnable to the heaviest shot

at close quarters. Lieut. Worden, who handled the Monitor so skillfully, is in Washington, in the hands of a surgeon. He was in the pilot house of the Monitor when the Merrimac directed a whole broadside at it, and received his injuries from the minute fragments of powder which were driven through the lookout holes. Lieut. Worden was stunned by the concussion, and was carried away. On recovering he asked, "Have I saved the Minnesota?" The reply was, "Yes, and whipped the Merrimac." To this he answered,

On examining the Monitor after the engagement though shell after shell had exploded on her decks and solid shot struck the tower, yet no perceptible damage had been done to the vessel, nor injury to the crew, with the exception already mentioned. One of the crew of the Monitor was asked how the boys felt during the engagement. He replied, "Oh first rate; the shot and shell from the Merrimac sounded like hailstones on

"Then I don't care what becomes of me." The

our decks." Captain Van Brunt and the crew of the Minnesota deserve great praise for their noble con-

duct in the two days engagements.

The gunboat Whitehall, Capt W. Baulsin, participated in both engagements, and fired 200 Parrott 30-pounder shells. The 30-pounder Parrott guns did great execution on the Jamestown, until a shell from the latter struck the trunion, the cap square of one of the guns making a dent of about one-quarter of an inch; but singular to relate, not a man was hurt by the bursting of the shell. The Whitehall is completely riddled. On the doors and bulwarks brains and blood, bones and hair are scattered around. The crew of the Whitehall behaved most admirably, and every shot from the enemy was hailed with a cheer and the fire returned. Captain Baulsin says he cannot speak to high in the praise of the Monitor. He asserts the Merrimac will never | Victoria Lawns, come out again as long as the Monitor is in this

On the first day the gunboat Dragon, with her 32 pound Parrott gun for'ard, silenced the rebel steamer Yorktown, compelling the rebels to haul her off in a leaking condition. The U. S. gunboat Zouave (one gun) was in

the first of the engagement on Saturday, and continued actively employed against the Merrimac until the latter retreated on Sunday noon. She received three shots from the rebels-one of them carried away her sternpost and one of the fans of her propeller. The Zouave in the engagement off Newport News towed the frigate Congress ashore, in order that she might not fall a prize to the rebels. In this perilious duty being within easy range of the Merrimac, she was the recipient of a heavy fire from the latter vessel. The naval storehulk Brandywine has been towed from the Point to Baltimore, as a measure of safety in case the Merrimac should appear

A French steam-vessel in port had steam up during the battle, with anchor hove short, ready to leave at a moment's notice. The frigate Minnesota was floated off this even-

ing, and is now at anchor off the Rip Raps. She is not so extensively damaged as was at first supposed. She will require to be taken into dry

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San Francisco. NOTICE! TO MASTERS AND OWNERS OF SHIPS.

WM. HENRY TRESCOTT. ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE UNITED STATES.

To all whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: I NOW YE. THAT GEORGE E. NETCHER a citizen of the United States, has filed in this Department the required notice of the discovery of gusno on Howland's Island, in the Pacific Ocean, the same lying in North latitude 50 mm. and in West longitude 176 deg. 52 min.

That notice of the occupation of said Island, in the name of the United States, by A. G. Benson, on behalf of himself and his associates, Wm. W. Taylor and said George E. Netcher, has the home filed. also been filed. And that the United States Guano Company of New York, a corporation of citizens under the laws of the State of New York, assignee of the assigns of the parties aforesaid, has entered into sufficient bonds, under and according to the provisions of the Act of the Congress of the United States, passed on the eighteenth day of August, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-six. Wherefore, the United States Guano Company is entitled, in respect to the guano on the said island, to all the privileges and advantages intended by that act to be secured to citizens of the

United States who may have discovered deposits of guano; provided, always, that the said United States Guano Company shall abide by the conditions and requirements imposed by the Act of Congress aforesaid.

In witness whereof, I, William Henry Trescott, Acting Secretary of State of the United States of America, have bereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed at Washington, this seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the

eighty-fifth.

WM. HENRY TRESCOTT, All persons not duly authorized are hereby forbid occupying

or removing guano from the above or any other Island, Rock or Key belonging to the Company, as published in the New York Tribune, March 8th, 1859.

Honolulu. CHAS. WOLCOTT BROOKS, W. PRANK LADD, EDWARD F. BALL, JR.